

Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians
1000 Washington St. Room 1C
Date: August 7, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Gary Peters
David Fogg
Deanna Kurlowecz
Marty Bregman

Staff Present:

James O'Connor, Board Counsel
Thomas F. Burke, Associate Exec. Director

Members of the Public Present:

Raymond Robertson
Holly Capano
Blair Wong
James Russo
Albert Odei-Boateng
Yomayra López
Ashlie Perkins

10:06AM: Meeting called To Order:

- Mr. Peters called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
- Mr. Burke reviewed exit procedures in the case of an emergency.

Review Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes of June 5, 2019 Meeting: **Mr. Fogg moved to accept the public minutes. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Board Business:

- Report from Associate Executive Director, Thomas Burke
 - Mr. Burke reported that there are approximately twenty applicants approved by board staff to take the Massachusetts Practical Exam in September pending further review by board members. He noted that Ashlie Perkins is the new liaison to the Board from the Division of Apprentice Standards and replaces Lorraine O'Connor.

Apprentice Extension Requests:

Yomayra López – Ms. López appeared before the board to request an extension of her apprenticeship that began in 2013. Ms. López has taken the ABO and NCLE but has not, as of yet, achieved a passing score on either exam. Ms. López received an apprenticeship extension in 2018. Her sponsor/mentor provided a written letter in support of Ms. López' ability to complete the apprenticeship program.

Mr. Fogg moved to grant Ms. López a six-month extension of her apprenticeship on the condition that she take the ABO and NCLE every time the exams are available. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Albert Odei-Boateng – Mr. Odei-Boateng appeared before the board to request an extension of his apprenticeship that began in 2014. Although Mr. Odei-Boateng was not on the agenda, the Board agreed to hear his request. Mr. Odei-Boateng has not, as of yet, passed either the ABO or NCLE exams, but is scheduled to take both exams this year.

Ms. Kurlowecz moved to grant Mr. Odei-Boateng a six-month extension of his apprenticeship on the condition that he take the ABO and NCLE every time the exams are available. Mr. Fogg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- DO Consumer Fact Sheet – The Board tabled discussion.
- Review of the DO Application Process – The Board tabled discussion until the September meeting.
- Professor Blair Wong provided a brief report to the Board. He stated that the Benjamin Franklin Institute is putting together a program to offer a once a month course to apprentices and applicants seeking college credit in the training of opticianry. There is no decision, as of yet, on the cost of the course offering. Professor Wong noted that the Institute has made online recording of his lectures available to those seeking further study. He also noted that the Opticians Association of Massachusetts will incorporate a one hour course on the Board's rules and regulations at its November meeting. Finally, he reported that the ABO now offers the virtual practical examination in eleven states who have shared reciprocity regarding the exam.
- Out of State Apprenticeship Training – Thomas Scotti. Upon review of Mr. Scotti's apprenticeship training in Connecticut, the Board voted to accept the training as substantially equivalent to Massachusetts apprenticeship requirements. The Board noted that Mr. Scotti's Connecticut apprenticeship may be counted toward his apprenticeship training requirement in Massachusetts.
- Out of State Apprenticeship & Exam Review – Neil Sunga. Mr. Sunga is a current licensee in the state of Nevada seeking licensure by endorsement. After a brief discussion, the Board determined that licensure in Nevada is substantially equivalent to licensure in Massachusetts, and voted to approve Mr. Sunga for licensure by endorsement per 235 CMR 2.08 (1).
- New Jersey Practical Exam – Serge Valin. Mr. Valin is a licensed dispensing optician in the state of New Jersey. He provided the board verification of good standing in New Jersey as well as documented procedures and instructions for the New Jersey practical exam. After review, the board determined that the New Jersey practical exam is substantially equivalent to the Massachusetts practical exam. The board agreed that Mr. Valin, a graduate of Raritan Valley Community College is eligible to apply by endorsement after he achieves a passing score on the NCLE exam.

Cases, Investigative Conference [Closed session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]:

At 11:05 a.m. Mr. Fogg moved to enter into Investigative Session to discuss pending cases [Closed Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 §65C]. Mr. Bregman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At the end of the investigative session, the open meeting resumed.

During the investigative conference the board voted to take the following action:

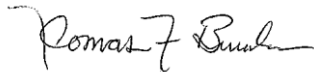
- DO-2018-000335-IT-ENF – Forwarded to Prosecutions.
- DO-2019-000368-IT-ENF – Dismissed.
- DO-2019-000369-IT-ENF – Dismissed.

At 1:05 p.m., Mr. Fogg moved to exit closed session. Ms. Kurlowecz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

At 1:07 p.m., Mr. Fogg moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas F. Burke
Associate Executive Director

Documents used in the open meeting:

- Agenda for DO Board Meeting of August 7, 2019
- Dispensing Optician Consumer Fact Sheet
- Minutes from previous meeting(s) where applicable